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## REVIEW

*Die Laubmoose Europas* [The *Bryineae* of Europe] edited by Leopold Loeske in association with prominent specialists. The work is illustrated with numerous figures, almost uniformly after original drawings, by P. Janzen, Prof. Dr. Györfy, Prof. Dr. Podpera, and others.

The prospectus of this new work on the Mosses of Europe is at hand, and sets forth for its *raison d'être* that even the best of its predecessors—to mention only the works of Schimper, and of Limpricht “might have been printed prior to the famous year 1859. . . . Even the considerable progress achieved by Limpricht in morphological and anatomical respects can not make good this defect.” All previous Moss floras might as well have been written before Darwin!

The work here announced will be found essentially distinct from its predecessors in the following features:

1. There is a stronger emphasis on life conditions, on variability under change of environment and distribution, that is, emphasis on the biology of mosses.

2. The old principle, of the greater importance of the sporophyte (“*per se*” and for the system) is abolished, and fundamentally equal value is given to both generations. In particular cases, after weighing all points, either of the two generations may receive the greater emphasis.

3. The old principle, of laying greater emphasis on anatomical, as compared with morphological characters, is abolished. The former, in spite of their protected position, are in many cases only apparently protected against the outer world. Particular cases as under “2.”

4. The systematic units, inclusive of the species, are abstractions, although in the fixed, little changeable species, concept and object may correspond fairly well. There are no characters which may, at the outset, be assumed as “specific characters,” but each group of mosses must, down to species and forms, be attempted to be studied and classified according to its special peculiarities.

5. It is proposed to apply all obtainable results to the improvement of the system, which remains ever open to further critical study and improvement, and which knows no “conclusion,” although in scientific practise such conclusion must be attempted. In consequence of the lack of paleontological records the system of Mosses throughout may assume only tentatively the character of a phylogenetic system. However, by the application of comparative methods, the natural relationship of Mosses may be expressed in a much higher degree in their arrangement than has been the case heretofore.

6. Synonymy belongs to history, is not a necessary part of the description of mosses, and is largely restricted in this work. Nomenclature is an aid in systematic work. This system is a useful method for discriminating between forms that are to be described according to their structure and life, and at the same time for grouping them together again according to their relationships. Accordingly even the system is a means to an end, however, in an unequally higher degree than lists of synonyms and nomenclature. While synonymy is

for the most part a superfluous evil, nomenclature is, to be sure, necessary, while the system represents a tangible scientific result capable of improvement.

The application of these principles has for its consequence changes of the system, and the latter is accordingly in process of transformation. For this reason the elaborations of the several families do not at first appear in systematic order. Each individual elaboration is a unit by itself, is separately paged and separately indexed.

This important work promises well as the harbinger of a new era in systematic bryology. And it well deserves the systematic support of all moss students.

The first volume, *Grimmiaceae*, by Leopold Loeske, is ready. It is a volume of 250 pages, has numerous illustrations, all (or mostly) original. Price, 18 Marks. The work appears in Numbers (Lieferungen), at 5 Marks each. Any number or part may be bought separately. Address, Max Lande, Berlin-Schöneberg, Mühlenstr. 8, Germany.

JOHN M. HOLZINGER.

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### SHORTER NOTES

From the list of new members of the S. M. S. for 1913, as given in the last number of the *BRYOLOGIST*, there was inadvertently omitted the name of Mr. Lowry Hagerman, the Middlesex School, Concord, Massachusetts.

Readers of the *BRYOLOGIST* will be interested to know that in December, 1913, Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith presented to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden her microscopes and botanical apparatus, and her herbarium of about twelve thousand specimens,—the work of the past eighteen years. The Garden will continue the open sets of exsiccati and anyone interested should hereafter address Dr. C. Stuart Gager, Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York.

There recently reached us the "First Circular" of the Fourth International Botanical Congress to be held in London, May 22–29, 1915. The unfinished work of the Brussels Congress in "(1) Nomenclature, and (2) Bibliography and Documentation" will be taken up in addition to other things and English will be the official language, if so desired the propositions to be made in English, French, and German. The General Secretary is Dr. A. B. Rendle, Dept. of Botany, British Museum of Natural History, London.

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Mr. George M. Pendleton, Sisson, Siskiyou Co., California.—*Fissidens rufulus* B. and S., and *Fontinalis neo-mexicana* S. and L.

Mr. C. C. Plett, 3933 Lowndes Ave., Baltimore, Md.—*Trypethelium virens* Tuck.

Dr. H. E. Hasse, Santa Monica, California.—*Bacidium naegelii* (Hepp.) A. Zahlbr., from California.